## Message Text

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ORIGIN OFA-01

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 EA-07 IO-10 ISO-00 FEA-01 ACDA-05

AGR-05 AID-05 CEA-01 CEQ-01 CG-00 CIAE-00 CIEP-01

COME-00 DLOS-04 DODE-00 DOTE-00 EB-07 ERDA-05 FMC-01

TRSE-00 H-02 INR-07 INT-05 JUSE-00 L-03 NSAE-00

NSC-05 NSF-01 OES-03 OMB-01 PA-01 PM-04 PRS-01 SP-02

SS-15 USIA-06 /123 R

DRAFTED BY OES/OFA:WLSULLIVAN:MJB APPROVED BY OES/OFA:WLSULLIVAN OES/OFA/FA - MR. NAKATSU L/OES - MR. LEITZELL D/LOS - MR. HULL

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY ROME

INFO AMEMBASSY BERLIN

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

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AMCONSUL HALIFAX BY POUCH

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EFIS, ICNAF, IT

SUBJECT: ICNAF AND US-ITALY FISHERIES AGREEMENT

REF: ROME 14776

- 1. DEPT DOES NOT WISH PURSUE DIALOGUE REFTEL. HOWEVER, SHOULD ITALIANS RAISE IT AGAIN EMBASSY SHOULD TAKE FOLLOWING APPROACH
- 2. ITALY DID EXTREMELY WELL IN HAVING ITS SECOND TIER QUOTA RAISED TO 6,800 MT AT MONTREAL ICNAF MEETING FROM 1975 STQ OF 4,150. PROPORTIONATELY ITALIAN STQ RAISED FAR MORE THAN ANY OTHER, AND IN FACE OF MAJOR REDUCTIONS IN CATCH AND EFFORT FOR MOST MEMBERS. STQ OF 12 OF 17 MEMBERS WAS REDUCED. STQ INCREASED FOR ONLY ITALY, SPAIN, AND US. THERE IS NO ROOM FOR INCREASE IN QUOTAS FOR ANY NON-COASTAL STATE UNTIL STOCKS HAVE BEEN RESTORED TO FULLY PRODUCTIVE LEVELS. IN THE MEANWHILE, COASTAL STATEQUOTAS MAY RISE IF ABILITY TO HARVEST INCREASES, AND SOME INDIVIDUAL STOCK QUOTAS FOR DEPLETED SPECIES MUST STILL GO DOWN. THERE IS ALSO POSSIBILITY THAT STQ MIGHT HAVE TO BE REDUCED FURTHER AS MORE RESEARCH IS DONE. THUS PROSPECTS ARE FOR DECLINES IN QUOTAS IN NEXT SEVERAL YEARS, NOT INCREASES.
- 3. ONLY PROSPECT FOR INCREASES ITALIAN QUOTAS WOULD BE IF ITALY PURSUADED NON-COASTAL ICNAF MEMBERS TO TAKE REDUCTIONS. THIS WOULD APPEAR TO BE REMOTE POSSIBILITY, ESPECIALLY RECALLING PERSISTENCE OF ITALIAN DELS TO EDINBURGH AND MONTREAL MEETINGS IN ACHIEVING GAINS WHILE OTHERS DECLINING, WHICH APPEARED TO ANTAGONIZE MANY OTHER DELS.

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- 4. WITH REGARD TO SPECIFIC STOCKS MENTIONED: MANY COD STOCKS ARE IN REDUCED ABUNDANCE AND COD QUOTAS ARE HOTLY CONTESTED BY MANY ICNAF MEMBERS. MACKEREL IS BADLY DEPLETED AND US WILL INSIST ON MAJOR REDUCTION NEXT YEAR. WHILE SQUID IS RARE IN THAT IT IS NOT OVERFISHED, SQUID QUOTAS ARE HOTLY CONTESTED BY SEVERAL ICNAF MEMBERS.
- 5. ALTHOUGH IT WAS NOT CLEAR FROM REF THAT GOI IS CON-

SIDERING FORMAL OBJECTION TO ANY QUOTAS UNDER ICNAF PROCEDURE, ANY SUCH OBJECTION, ESPECIALLY TO STQ, WOULD PRODUCE SEVERE POLITICAL REACTION IN US AND PROBABLY IN OTHER ICNAF MEMBERS AS WELL WHO ABSORBED SIGNIFICANT REDUCTIONS IN THEIR QUOTAS.

- 6. USG WILLING TO CONSIDER FISHERIES AGREEMENT WITH GOI. HOWEVER, THIS SHOULD NOT GIVE FALSE IMPRESSION THAT ITALIAN QUOTAS WOULD RISE UNDER SUCH AGREEMENT. TENDENCY IN FISHERIES BILATERALS HAS BEEN TO GREATER RESTRICTIONS ON FISHING ACTIVITIES AND DECLINES IN QUOTAS, JUST AS IN BODIES LIKE ICNAF. DUE TO HEAVY FISHERIES SCHEDULE, IMPOSSIBLE TO TELL NOW WHEN DISCUSSIONS MIGHT BE HELD WITH GOI, BUT CERTAINLY NOT IN IMMEDIATE FUTURE AS NEXT SEVERAL MONTHS ALREADY FULLY BOOKED AND MANY OTHER ITEMS ARE PENDING FOR 1976.
- 7. IT IS CLEAR THAT IN NOT TOO DISTANT FUTURE COASTAL STATES WILL HAVE FULL MANAGEMENT RESPONSIBILITY OVER COASTAL FISHERIES AS RESULT LOS AGREEMENT, HOPEFULLY IN 1976. WHEN THAT STAGE REACHED IT IS OBVIOUS THAT COASTAL STATES ARE GOING TO BE MORE FAVORABLY DISPOSED TOWARD THOSE WHO COOPERATE DURING THIS DIFFICULT INTERIM PERIOD THAN TOWURD THOSE WHO DO NOT, AND THAT PRESENT COOPERATION THUS HAS DIRECT MEANING FOR THOSE WHO WANT ACCESS IN FUTURE TO SURPLUS NOT HARVESTED BY COASTAL FISHERMEN.
- 8. AS FAR AS RAISING ISSUE "AT THE POLITICAL LEVEL", RECALL PRESIDENT SENT PERSONAL MESSAGE TO ICNAF MEETING MONTREAL.
- 9. ALTHOUGH FOREGOING IS BLEAK PICTURE, IT DOES NOT MEAN THAT USG OR OTHERS ARE UNSYMPATHETIC TO SMALL FISHERIES LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PROBLEMS SUCH AS THOSE OF ITALY. RATHER, IT REFLECTS FACT THAT WHOLE FISHERIES PICTURE IS BLEAK AND WILL REMAIN SO UNTIL RESTORATION STOCKS TAKES PLACE, WHICH IS CURRENTLY ESTIMATED TO TAKE ABOUT SEVEN YEARS. IN CIRCUMSTANCES IT IS EXTREMELY DIFFICULT TO ACCOMMODATE TO SPECIAL INTERESTS OR NEEDS, EVEN SMALL-SCALE ONES SUCH AS ITALY'S. NEVERTHELESS, USG STANDS READY TO CONTINUE TO COOPERATE WITH ALL FISHERIES OFF US COASTS IN AN ATTEMPT TO ACCOMMODATE ALL PROBLEMS IN AS REASONABLE MANNER AS POSSIBLE IN CIRCUMSTANCES. INGERSOLL

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